

# Leaffield C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Murphy Class and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a very happy and restful Christmas. We'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to you for all of your support last term. Also, thank you for the kind and thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts.

## Our topics

This term we are embracing the colder weather with our new, exciting topics: Our main topic this term is 'Starry Night'. Please have a look at our Knowledge Organisers with your child (a copy will be in their homework book sent out at the end of the first week), to give you a taste of what we will be focusing on throughout the coming weeks. The topics include light and dark, bedtime routines, nocturnal animals, stars and space. We'll also be looking carefully for signs of winter and finding out a bit more about places in the world where it is even colder than here.

Next week, we'll be inviting you to come into school at 5pm on Wednesday, so the children can experience the school site after dark. Please see the separate letter about this for full details.

## Outdoor learning

This term, Outdoor Learning sessions will take place on **Friday** afternoons, with Mrs. Bedlow (Our Outdoor learning leader) and Mrs. Jobson. During the winter months, sessions will be in the school garden. As always during the colder season, we will monitor the weather conditions each week, to ensure the children's health and safety.

Please make sure your child comes to school wearing clothing suitable for being outdoors and **brings appropriate waterproofs, wellies** etc in a named rucksack or bag, with a water bottle. As the weather is much colder, please can you make sure your child is wearing warm clothing and that they have a hat, gloves and scarf (please make sure that these are named.) We are excited to get stuck into exploring outdoors again this term!

As before, we will continue to be outside daily, so please provide a warm, waterproof coat every day. If their thick coat isn't waterproof, a thin jacket to go over the top is ideal for wet days. A change of clothes (especially socks and tights/trousers) should be left at school, as the children do love to explore puddles and water play!

## P.E.

P.E. sessions will continue in school every **Wednesday** afternoon, so your child needs to come to school in full PE kit and clean trainers every Wednesday. Please ensure your child is wearing their PE hoody with the correct top and bottoms. This term, we will be doing gymnastics and sessions will be in the school hall, led by Mrs Percy.

## Maths

This term we will begin exploring time, thinking about the idea of night and day, days of the week, sequencing daily routines, and beginning to measure durations of events in simple ways. We will also be continuing our number work, looking at the concept of zero and then exploring the composition of numbers— thinking in detail about which smaller numbers combine to make up a larger number. Further into the term, we will be investigating mass, capacity, length and height and working on our understanding of heavy and light, full and empty, tall, long and short. We will focus on how to compare, estimate and measure.



*Let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

## Phonics and reading

In phonics, we will be revising, using and applying all of the sounds and skills learnt last term. While it can be tempting to keep introducing new sounds, this is a critical stage in their reading development, and we will be ensuring your child can read more challenging words using the sounds they know before embarking on the next set of sounds in the coming months.

We will continue to be sending home reading books/sheets each week, matched to the stage your child is at. Please continue to practise speed sounds as often as possible too. When children bring home a 'ditty' book or sheet, they will have read these in class across the week and practised speedily reading the words. ***They may whizz through the story at home, but be assured that this is a good thing!*** The more children become familiar with sounds and words they see repeatedly, the more they will recognise without having to decode them, encouraging them to read more quickly and fluently. It's lovely for them to be able to share and celebrate their learning with you at home too.

Please **return reading books on Wednesdays**, so they can be changed and sent home on a Friday, however, please ensure your child has their reading book(s) and reading record in school every day (except Thursdays), as we will be reading with your child at some point each week.

Please try to read with your child every day (it doesn't always have to be a school book) and record it in their reading record book. We do understand that children are often tired at the end of a school day and every family has different routines and working patterns, but reading as often as possible is hugely beneficial. Revisiting books and stories is a great way to develop confidence and familiarity; we suggest reading each book 3 times before changing it if possible. Please can you make a note of any reading done at home, so we know whether to swap books for new ones. Thank you for your support.

## Homework

Thank you for your support with homework last term. It has been lovely to see and read about their ideas linked to our topics and we hope you have enjoyed being part of the learning too. We will continue to send activities home every Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. As before, we'll give you some prompts to talk about what we've been doing in class that week with some activities and questions to consolidate this learning. How they choose to complete this activity is up to them – it might be they wish to chat about their ideas, draw, paint or write something, take a photo, or maybe even build or create something! As their writing skills are developing, they may like to jot down some words or phrases themselves. At this stage, we encourage them to listen for the sounds they can hear in words using Fred Fingers before having a go at writing them, rather than giving them the correct spelling. For example, 'tree' might be *t r i y* and night may be *n I t*, if they've remembered how to write the word 'I'. It is important to see early years home activities as a creative exercise and best of all, as something you and your child can share together.

## Show and Tell

Children are welcome to bring in an item each week on a Wednesday for Show and Tell. Ideally, it will be something linked to our topics – Starry Night (e.g. a favourite bedtime teddy/toy, or story, something relating to nocturnal animals, or people who work at night, or about space) and Winter Wonderland. Items will be stored safely for the day until our Show and Tell session. It is helpful if you can spend some time chatting with your child beforehand, so they have some ideas about what they might tell their friends about their special item.

We are really looking forward to the coming term. If you have any questions at all about anything or wish to arrange a meeting to talk about something in more detail, please feel free to contact us through the class email address: [murphy@leafield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:murphy@leafield.oxon.sch.uk)

Many thanks,

Mrs Jobson & Mrs Percy  
Class Teachers